

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6-18 and 20-23 are currently pending. Claim 2 has been allowed by the Examiner. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 8 and 21 are amended herein, Applicant adds new Claims 24-26, and Claims 6, 7, 9-11, 14-18, 20, 22 and 23 have been cancelled. The foregoing amendments merely place the application in condition for allowance. No new matter has been introduced. Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that Claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 15 depends from independent Claim 1. While Applicant does not agree with the rejections raised by the Examiner, in order to expedite the allowance of the objected claims, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the subject matter of Claim 15 in independent form.

Claims 8, 12, 13, 21, and 24-26 are dependent upon independent Claim 1. As amended Claim 1 is allowable, the dependent claims, which include all the features of the base claim therein, should likewise be deemed allowable. Support for new Claims 24-26 can be found in FIGS. 18, 22 and 24, and Paragraphs [0071] through [0075] of Applicant's Detailed Description.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview involving Examiner Jamie L. McGowan and Applicant's representatives on January 21, 2010. During the interview, proposed amendments to Claim 14 and new Claims 27 and 28 were discussed in view of the Examiner's indication of allowance of Claim 15 and the cited reference U.S. Patent No. 3,841,424 to Purcell. During the interview, the Examiner would not agree that the proposed claim amendments and new claims overcame the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection in view of Purcell.

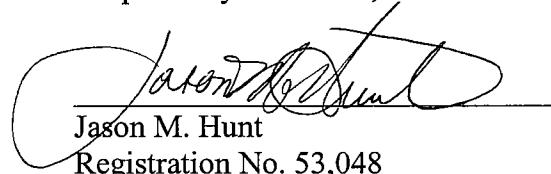
Applicant reserves the right to represent the non-elected Claims 6, 7, 9-11, 14-18, 20, 22 and 23 and argue against the Examiner's rejections in continuing applications directed to same in the future.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and remarks herein to accept the Examiner's allowed claims, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's outstanding objection and rejection of the claims be withdrawn and the case be moved toward allowance. Should the Examiner have any further point of objection, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned via telephone so that a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations can be quickly reached.

Respectfully submitted,

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